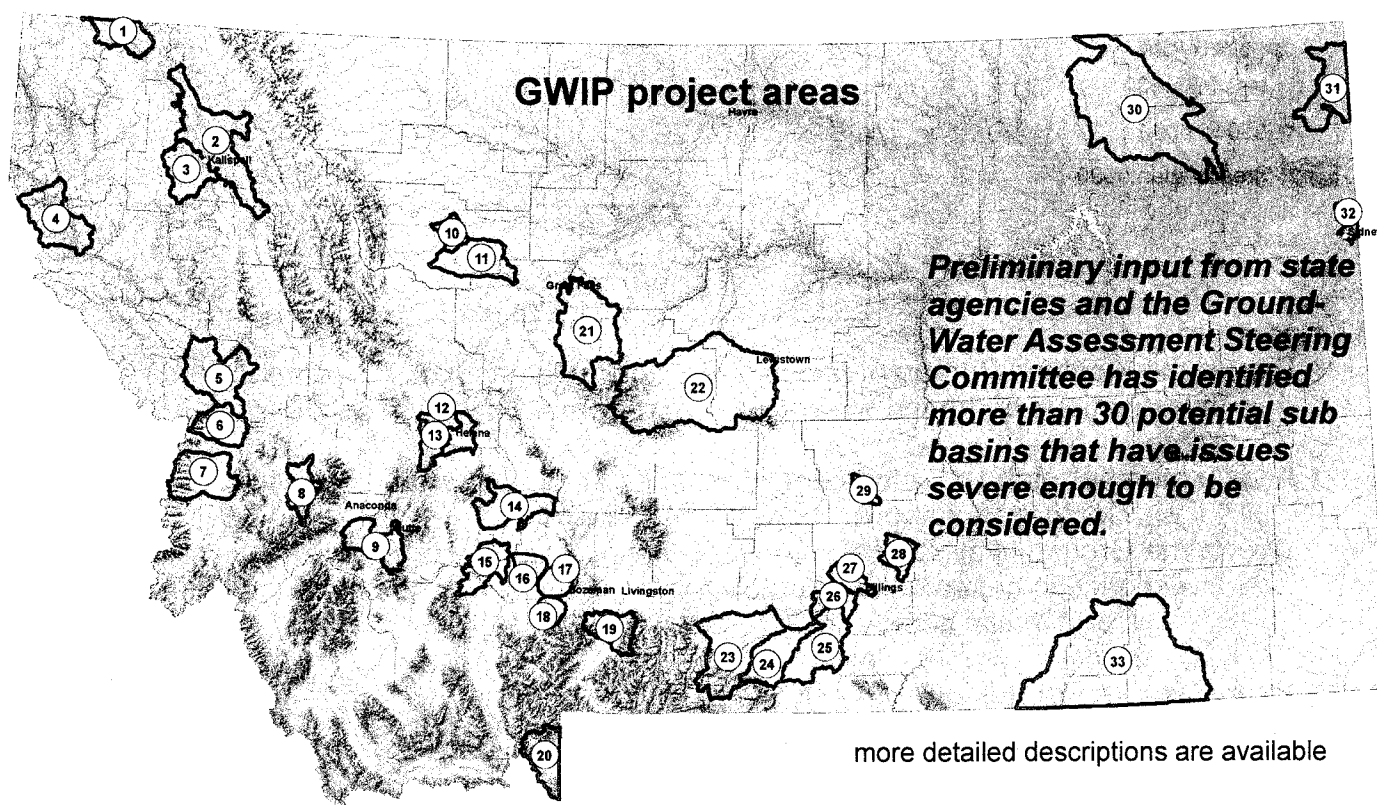


HB52 Ground-Water Investigations Program

The 2007/2008 Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) recognized that competition for water resources and the lack of detailed information on ground-water/surface water interaction has challenged informed water-resource management and development in Montana. The WPIC found that "continued and expanded study of ground-water resources is vital to shaping statewide policy as well as providing the data necessary for local decisions regarding water." HB52 was drafted by the WPIC in response to this finding.

The Ground-Water Investigations Program (GWIP) established by HB52 would add to Montana's capability to deal with important water-resource issues including:

- stream depletion from ground-water development by subdivisions or irrigation projects,
- cumulative effects of existing and proposed water development on stream flow,
- impacts to ground water and surface water from changes in irrigation practices or land use,
- implementation of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) in Montana, and
- evaluating the success of mitigation/offset plans in closed basins.



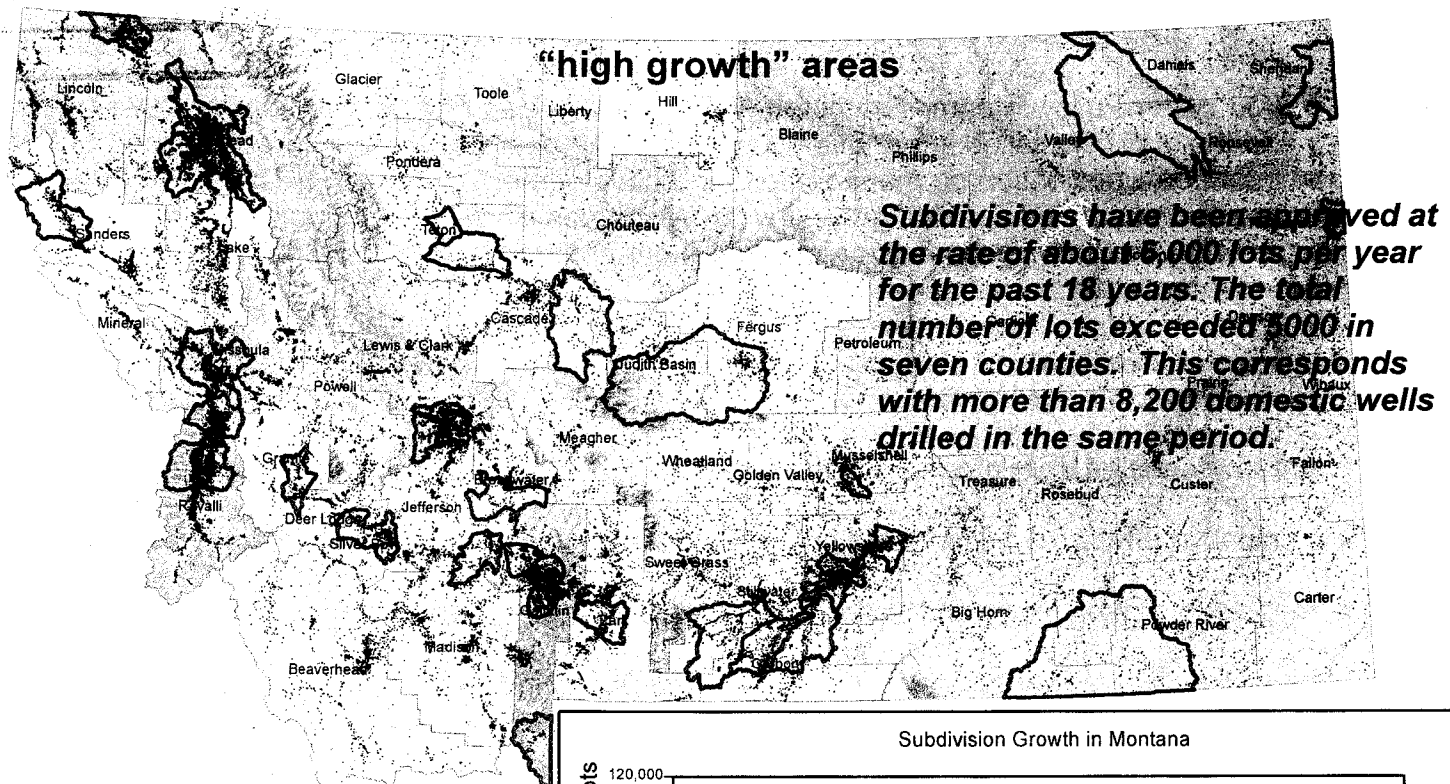
1 Eureka
2 Flathead Valley
3 Smith Valley
4 Noxon
5 Missoula Valley
6 Florence
7 Hamilton

8 Georgetown Lake
Phillipsburg
9 Summit Valley
10 Priest Butte Lake
11 Greenfield Bench
12 North Hills
13 Scratchgravel Hills
14 Townsend, Toston

15 Three Forks
16 Manhattan
17 Belgrade
18 Four Corners
19 Pine Creek
20 W. Yellowstone
21 Belt, Monarch

22 Little Belt Mtns
23 Stillwater Valley
24 Rock Creek
25 Prior Mtns
26 Park City
27 West Billings
28 East Billings

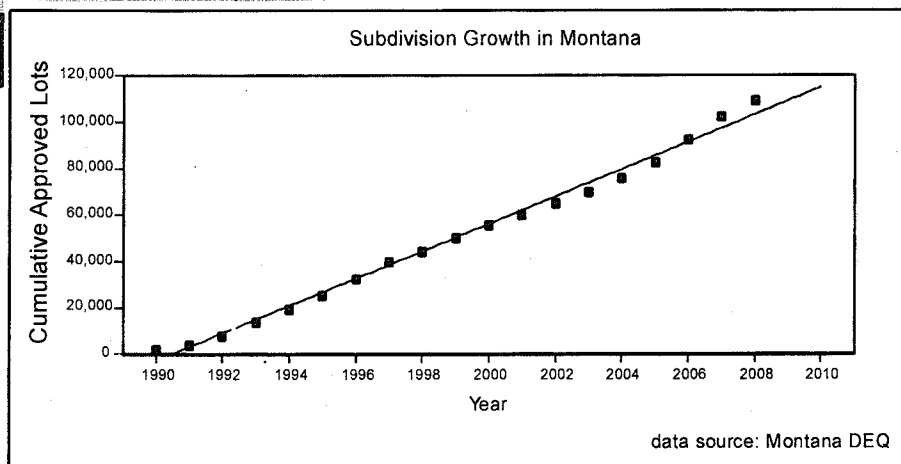
29 Roundup
30 Flaxville gravels
31 Clear Lake
32 Sidney
33 Coalbed methane



- water wells drilled 1990-2008 (82,000 statewide)

Approved lots

- less than 500
- 500 to 5000
- greater than 5000



HB52 elements:

- Directs the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to conduct 1-3 year focused investigations of ground water and surface water in high growth, or over-appropriated areas,
- Adds a member of the development community to the Ground-Water Assessment Steering Committee authorized in 2-15-1523 MCA,
- Directs the Ground-Water Assessment Steering Committee to prioritize sub basin investigations based on anticipated growth in housing, agriculture, industry and commercial activity

Ground-Water Investigation Program Products:

- Each sub basin investigation products will include:
 - A detailed report that describes the hydrogeologic system,
 - Models that simulate hydrogeologic features and processes, and
 - A comprehensive set of hydrogeologic data available through the MBMG Ground-Water Information Center (GWIC)

Each project will be a focused investigation of ground water and surface water in a sub-basin of sufficient size to construct models and a detailed report of the investigation. The models, reports, and supporting data will be technical in nature and used directly by scientists and engineers representing agencies, applicants, senior water-right holders, and other stakeholders.

Comm. Secretary

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT 110
DATE 1/12/09
HB 52

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



CAPITOL BUILDING - P.O. Box 200802
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0802

MEMORANDUM

To: Representative McNutt
Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: *[Signature]* David Ewer, Budget Director

Re: Opposition to HB 52, Fund hydrogeologic study

Date: January 12, 2009

Dear Representative McNutt and members of the committee: Given budget constraints, I respectfully go on record as opposing HB 52 for fiscal reasons. My opposition is not based on any intrinsic merits of HB 52.

The Executive Budget currently has a structural surplus, however, unlike the 2007 Session, which had over \$80 million in projected revenues over the Administration's ongoing general fund expenditure proposals, the current budget is very tight. While the Administration insisted on a spending cap to preserve the structural surplus of \$80 million, the modification or rejections of some Administration proposals created substantial fiscal 'space' for other legislative priorities).

The Schweitzer Administration fully understands and respects the legislative process and a legislator's prerogative to achieve any legislation he or she so desires. Given that it is very early in the 2009 session and this bill's hearing date, it is certain that the legislature will take later action that will either free up or additionally constrain budget capacity. But again, the importance of maintaining a basic level of public safety, health, and education service levels require this opposition.

This letter is intended to benefit, not impede communications. I am eager for any feed back as to how we can maximize effective communications.